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Whitney (N.D.)

TESTING FOR COLOR-BLINDNESS.

February 17, 1880, it was "ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States that all persons applying for either a renewal of license or an original license, as pilots on steam vessels, shall be required to undergo a visual examination, in order that it may be determined whether such person can properly distinguish the colored lights used as signals on steam vessels; and, in future, inspectors will issue pilots' licenses only upon certificates of surgeons of the United States Marine-Hospital Service that applicants therefor fulfill all the requirements of the rule referred to."

March 9, 1880, this order was "so modified as to allow pilots employed at places remote from a Marine-Hospital station to be examined by any respectable resident physician, whose certificate that such pilot is exempt from the disease known as color-blindness shall accompany the license and oath of office of such officer when sent to any board of local inspectors for renewal of his license in the manner provided. Upon the receipt of the certificate a license shall be issued the same as though said examination had been made by a Marine-Hospital surgeon. This modification is not to be applied to applicants for original licenses; they, in all cases, must be examined in the manner provided," *i. e.*, by Marine-Hospital surgeons.

The standard manual adopted by the United States Government and provided for the medical officers of the Army, Navy and Marine-Hospital service is "Color-Blindness: its Dangers and Detection," by Dr. B. Joy Jeffries.

The method of examination adopted, is the one fully described in this manual, namely, Prof. Holmgren's, with certain colored worsteds. This is also the test used by medical experts in detecting color-blindness amongst *railroad employes*, and the one used in the schools, and in the recent investigations of the color-sense of uncivilized tribes in various parts of the world, a mutual language not being necessary for examiner and examined.

The value of the test depends upon its being carried out strictly in accordance with Prof. Holmgren's directions, given in this manual. For this purpose it is absolutely necessary to have the *correct colors and shades of worsteds*, which are not easily procured, therefore

At the Meeting of the American Ophthalmological Society at Newport, July 25, 1879, it was resolved,

"That Dr. B. Joy Jeffries be requested to make such arrangements as he may find practicable to enable the members of the Society and others to procure suitable collections of colored worsteds for testing for color-blindness."

In compliance with this request the following arrangement has been made with the undersigned. They agree on the receipt of \$2.50 to send by mail, post-paid, to any address, a complete and accurate set of worsteds, including the *tests*. On the receipt of \$4.50 they agree to send, post-paid, to any address, a set of the worsteds AND the manual of Dr. Jeffries above referred to.

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